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Sixth Committee
Agenda item 158
International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,[1] adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 11 November 1997, in particular article 11 thereof, which states that practices that are contrary to human dignity, such as reproductive cloning of human beings, shall not be permitted,

Recalling also its resolution 53/152 of 9 December 1998, by which it endorsed the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 2003/69 of 25 April 2003, entitled "Human rights and bioethics",[2] adopted by the Commission at its fifty-seventh session,

Mindful of the importance of the development of the life sciences for the benefit of mankind, with full respect for the integrity and dignity of the human being,

Aware that the rapid development of the life sciences opens up prospects for the improvement of the health of individuals and mankind as a whole, but also that certain practices pose potential dangers to the integrity and dignity of the individual,

[1] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session*, vol. 1, *Resolutions*, resolution 16.

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 3* (E/2003/23), chap. II, sect. A.

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Concerned by the seriousness of problems posed by the development of techniques of reproductive cloning of human beings applied to mankind, which may have consequences for respect for human dignity,

Particularly concerned, in the context of practices that are contrary to human dignity, at recently disclosed information on research into and attempts at the reproductive cloning of human beings,

Determined to prevent, as a matter of urgency, such an offence to human dignity,

Recalling its resolution 56/93 of 12 December 2001, by which it decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, for the purpose of considering the elaboration of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings,

Determined to adopt provisional measures at the national level to prevent potential dangers to the human dignity of the individual pending the adoption and entry into force of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on its work from 29 September to 3 October 2003;

2. *Decides* that the Ad Hoc Committee shall be reconvened from ___to ___ February and from ___ to ___ September 2004 in order to prepare, as a matter of urgency and if possible by the end of 2004, a draft international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings;

3. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee, in developing the draft convention, to include the following elements:

(a) An obligation on all contracting parties to ban reproductive cloning of human beings with no possibility of making any reservations;

(b) An obligation on all contracting parties to take action to control other forms of human cloning by adopting a ban or imposing a moratorium or regulating them by means of national legislation;

4. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to take into consideration the relevant existing international instruments;

5. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so, pending the adoption and entry into force of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings and their becoming party thereto, to adopt at the national level a prohibition against reproductive cloning of human beings;

6. *Also calls upon* those States that have not yet done so, pending the adoption and entry into force of an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings and their becoming party thereto, to take action to control other forms of human cloning by adopting a ban or imposing a moratorium or regulating them by means of national legislation;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Ad Hoc Committee with the facilities necessary for the performance of its work;

8. *Invites* the Ad Hoc Committee to take into consideration the contributions of United Nations bodies and to closely involve the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the process of negotiations;

9. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Committee to report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings".